



LP News

**Libertarian
candidates
make
bold pledges**

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Two governors fill Libertarian presidential ticket

After three and a half days of debates, speeches, and high drama, delegates to the Libertarian Nominating Convention in Orlando, Fla., narrowly chose high-profile candidates—New Mexico governor Gary Johnson, the party's 2012 nominee, for president and Massachusetts governor William Weld for vice president.

Intense interest in this year's convention drew record attendance and swarms of media to a packed convention floor at the Rosen Centre Hotel over Memorial Day weekend. The hotel was forced to direct visitors to park on the grass to accommodate the overflow crowd. Satellite trucks sending live feeds to their respective TV networks lined the convention hall.

The LP has received far more media coverage leading up to, during, and since the convention than at any other time in its 45-year history. Libertarian National Committee Chair Nicholas Sarwark, Johnson, and Weld took media interviews and held press conferences at every possible break from the action.

Whereas about a dozen reporters showed



Governors William Weld, Gary Johnson

up for the 2012 convention, this year the party fielded requests for more than 270 press passes. The country's largest media outlets were there, including CNN, ABC, NBC, CBS, Fox News, Reuters, Associated Press, the *New York Times*, the *Los Angeles Times*, the *Washington Post*, One America News Network, and C-SPAN, plus a half-dozen international outlets.

Whereas many delegate seats remained unfilled in past conventions, this year's vacancies were scooped up days before the

convention began. Credentialed delegates and alternates numbered 1,018, up from 648 in 2012 and 440 in 2014.

A real convention, where delegates decide

No one knew who would emerge as the Libertarian Party's nominees—in stark contrast to the predictable outcomes of Democratic and Republican conventions, which have been dubbed “coronations.”

Campaigning was in full swing by the start of the Welcome Reception, held the night before the convention was called to order. Later that evening, presidential and vice-presidential candidates appeared in pre-convention debates organized by Kentucky Libertarian Ken Moellman before a standing-room-only crowd. Delegates got their first chance to hear from all of the party's recognized candidates.

Each delegate was allotted two tokens, to be used in qualifying candidates for the presidential and vice-presidential nominations, as well as for determining inclusion in the convention debates.

Throughout the convention, and especially between rounds of balloting, passionate supporters electioneered intensely for their favorite candidates.

Presidential nomination

Delegates chose to nominate six candidates for president: Gov. Johnson, media producer Austin Petersen, software entre-

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Prominent GOPers turn to the LP

By Christopher Goins

A state legislator and two notable media personalities have switched their voter registration from Republican to Libertarian, while prominent Republican politicians consider voting for the Libertarian ticket this year.

Nebraska State Senator Laura Ebke switched her lifelong affiliation from the Republican Party to the LP in May. The decision wasn't made overnight; rather, it had been in the making for months, she says.

“I got frustrated with some of my colleagues who don't recognize civil liberties and don't seem to agree with getting gov-



State Senator Laura Ebke (L-Neb.)

ernment out of people's business,” she said, according to the *Omaha World-Herald*.

Ebke is the first Libertarian to serve in the Nebraska state legislature. She had helped to found the Nebraska Republican Liberty Caucus.

Sen. Ebke is one of only 49 senators serving in Nebraska's unicameral, nonpartisan legislature. She was elected for the first time in November 2014, for a four-year term ending in January 2019.

During her 1-1/2 years in office, Ebke has introduced a bill to prohibit local governments from having more stringent requirements for gun possession than the

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CHAIR'S CORNER

Libertarian Party takes center stage

by Nicholas Sarwark, Chair

For the long Memorial Day weekend, the center of the American political universe was the Rosen Centre Hotel in Orlando, Fla. It was quite possibly the largest national convention in Libertarian Party history and, with hundreds of reporters from around the world, definitely the most watched. The competition for the presidential and vice-presidential nominations was fierce, and the delegates took their responsibility seriously.

With the selection of Governors Johnson and Weld to be our standard-bearers, the Libertarian Party has nominated the most experienced and sensible candidates who will appear on the ballot in November—a sharp contrast to the bullies in the old parties. For 45 years, the Libertarian Party has been preparing for this moment, building up ballot-access victories, organizing local and state affiliates, changing hearts and minds one at a time. In 2016, we have an opportunity to break through all of our previous records and give every single American an opportunity to vote for a political party that stands for them—not for special interests and corporate cronies.

We Libertarians are playing a long game. We know that victory may not be this year, or next year, or even in two or four years. We keep working anyway, building up state and local parties, running candidates, and doing what is necessary to move the Libertarian Party forward. Those decades of hard work are paying off in



Nicholas Sarwark

this election cycle; and no matter what the results in November, the Libertarian Party will emerge bigger and stronger than ever.

This is not the time to let up. It's a time to redouble our efforts. Get out there and gather petition signatures to get our candidates on the ballot. Run for office; or if your personal situation makes it difficult to run yourself, volunteer or donate to help someone who *is* running.

Getting included in the presidential debates would put our candidate on equal footing with the old parties. If our two lawsuits are not successful, the only other way into the debates is for a candidate to poll at or above 15 percent. Gary Johnson was polling at 10 percent before his nomination, so 15 percent is within striking distance—but we need your help. Talk to your friends and family about our presidential candidate. Use social media to talk about him. Because so much of polling is name recognition, we need your help to make sure Gary Johnson is a name everybody knows.

Regardless of whether you believe in a higher power, a time like this, when all of our hard work is paying off, makes you want to fall to your knees and exclaim, "Thank you. My dreams have come true." As members of the Libertarian Party, you and I are working toward a goal of "nothing more nor less than a world set free in our lifetime." We're not there yet, but we're getting closer, faster than at any time in my memory.

Yours in liberty,



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The Libertarian Party (LP) and its state affiliates work to advance the right of individuals to be free, so long as they do not forcibly interfere with the equal rights of others. The party runs candidates for public office, elects Libertarians, supports and opposes ballot measures, lobbies, and takes positions on public policy aimed at removing, reducing, and nullifying government laws, regulations, prohibitions, taxes, spending, debt, and foreign interventions.

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David F. Nolan Memorial Office Fund donors March 26 – June 15, 2016

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Mark W.A. Hinkle

Plaques are now on display at the Libertarian National Committee office space in Alexandria, Va., that recognize our top donors. To have your name appear on a plaque, or if you'd just like to help pay off the mortgage, mail in your donation or visit LP.org.

Contribute today: LP.org/office-fund

GOP defectors

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state has; cosponsored a bill to legalize medical marijuana; and cosponsored a bill to partially repeal asset forfeiture ("policing for profit"). She played a key role in advancing each of these bills.

Ebke joins Nevada legislator John Moore as the second state legislator to leave the GOP and register with the LP this year. Moore defected from the GOP in January.

In Indiana, John Pickerill, chairman of the Montgomery County Republicans, stepped down to join the LP. "I don't see the Republican Party representing me anymore," he said on air on WTHR-TV.

In California, Scott Wooden, elected member of the Del

Mar Unified District School Board, changed his registration from Republican to Libertarian on June 8.

"I got frustrated with some of my colleagues who don't recognize civil liberties and don't seem to agree with getting government out of people's business."

—Sen. Laura Ebke

LP California Chair Ted Brown said, "This is the time for all libertarian-minded officials to leave the dying Republican Party and join the only party that really believes in economic freedom, plus personal freedom as a bonus."

Mary Matalin, Krista Kafer join LP

Media personalities Mary Matalin and Krista Kafer also left the Grand Old Party and changed their voter registration to Libertarian.

Matalin, a strategist who has worked for the 1984 Reagan-Bush campaign, as George H.W. Bush's campaign director, as assistant to George W. Bush, and as assistant and counselor to former vice president Dick Cheney, exited the Republican Party in May.



Political strategist Mary Matalin on Bloomberg TV

She registered with the Libertarian Party "[b]ecause I'm a republican in the Jeffersonian, Madisonian sense," she said on Bloomberg, where she made her announcement. "I'm not a republican for a party or a person. And the Libertarian Party ... continues to represent those constitutional principles that I agree with."

"The Libertarian Party ... continues to represent those constitutional principles that I agree with."

—Mary Matalin

Matalin insisted that her move did not have to do with Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump having become the presumptive nominee just a few days prior.

"After two successive blowout elections for conservatives with a non-response from Washington, a lot of conservatives are angry with the party," she explained. "The party was still falling apart."

While she has registered with the LP only recently, Matalin insisted that she's "always been a libertarian."

"I thought libertarianism was a sound and solid and eternal element of conservatism," she said during the Bloomberg interview.



Denver Post columnist and radio talk host Krista Kafer

A pro-lifer and self-described "provisional Trumpster" at the time of the interview—who said she can't vote for Trump until he reveals his principles—Matalin later endorsed pro-life Libertarian Austin Petersen to be the LP presidential nominee, writing a lengthy endorsement appearing on his official campaign website.

"In an ideal world, the GOP would continue to be the natural home of libertarian principles," Matalin wrote. "Unfortunately, both [the Republican and Democratic] parties have decimated the first principles that made this country great over the last 80+ years."

Gov. Gary Johnson was eventually chosen over Petersen as the Libertarian Party's presidential nominee.

Krista Kafer, an evening drive-time, conservative radio host for 710 KNUS in Denver, Colo., and columnist for the *Denver Post*, defected from the GOP precisely because of Trump.

"Some of us love our country too much to play that game anymore."

—Krista Kafer,

on voting for the "lesser of two evils"

During the bulk of her March 11th radio broadcast, she made an eloquent and assertive case for her choice to register Libertarian. Barraged with charges that voting Libertarian is tantamount to voting for Hillary Clinton—from both her co-host Steve Kelley and listeners who called in—she stood her ground.

One caller argued that by backing out of the two-party system, Kafer was voting for Hillary. But Kafer turned it around and said by the same logic she was voting for Trump by withholding her vote from Clinton.

"Damn the game," Kafer said. "Some of us love our country too much to play that game anymore."

Kafer says that if Trump is elected and becomes the "face" of the GOP, then it is likely she will help build the Libertarian Party. But if Trump loses, she will likely go back to the GOP.

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Presidential candidates debating at the Libertarian Nominating Convention.
L-R: Marc Allan Feldman, Austin Petersen, Gary Johnson, Darryl Perry, John McAfee

2016 LP convention

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preneur John McAfee, Free Talk Live radio host Darryl Perry, physician Marc Allan Feldman, and technology developer Kevin McCormick. All but McCormick qualified to participate in the presidential debate.

Dr. Feldman did not have enough tokens to qualify for the debate when nominations began. But before they closed, he managed to sway enough delegates to earn him a spot on the debate stage. He closed the debate with a rap song he wrote, which later went viral on the Internet.

Syndicated radio host Larry Elder moderated the debate, covered live by C-SPAN. Some of his questions poked at obscure areas of libertarian ideology. He covered topics from radical Islam to immigration; from transgender bathroom policies to where government should be cut. The candidates responded unapologetically with bold, Libertarian solutions.

When voting began, the leading presidential candidates had amassed bands of support among the delegates, making a first-ballot victory unlikely for Johnson. He finished in first place, with 49.5 percent of the vote on the first round, shy of the



majority needed to seal the nomination.

Austin Petersen came in second, with 21.3 percent. John McAfee was next, with 14.2 percent, followed by Darryl Perry at 6.8 percent, and Marc Allan Feldman at 6.3 percent.

Kevin McCormick received 1 percent of the vote and was dropped from the second ballot because he received less than 5 percent. NOTA—"none of the above," an option in all LP elections—received 0.5 percent.

On the second ballot, Johnson won the nomination with 55.8 percent of the vote, followed by Petersen (21.9 percent), McAfee (14.1 percent), Perry (5.6 percent), and Feldman (1.9 percent).

Vice-presidential nomination

The vice-presidential election was even more of a nail-biter than the presidential race.

Gov. Weld was joined in the vice-presidential debate by three other candidates who qualified for inclusion: Larry Sharpe, managing director of Neo-Sage® Group,



Gov. Gary Johnson fielding questions at a press conference during the convention

Inc., a business consulting and training firm; attorney Alicia Dearn, who successfully defeated several attempts by Republicans to knock Libertarians off the ballot in 2012; and Will Coley, national director of Muslims 4 Liberty, small farmer, and public speaker. The four candidates presented diverse styles and campaign platforms.

Weld joined the party and entered the vice-presidential race just weeks before the convention, at the request of Gov. Johnson,

The 2016 convention may well go down as the most memorable in the party's history. It may be a sign that voters are readier than ever to give the boot to the Washington, D.C., establishment and vote Libertarian.

who believed that a high-profile candidate was needed to raise money, spur the interest of PACs, and draw significant media attention to the campaign.

But, unlike Democratic and Republican presidential nominees, the Libertar-

ian nominee can only recommend, not choose, his or her running mate. Delegates granted Johnson his wish, but only by a five-vote margin on the second ballot in a fiercely contested race.

They may have been swayed by a bold pledge that Weld made to the delegates:

"I have joined the Libertarian Party as a Life Member. I pledge to you that I will stay with the Libertarian Party for Life.

"Governor Gary Johnson and I will help down-ticket Libertarian candidates for U.S. Senate, the U.S. House, as well as state offices, with campaign funds as well as funding for ballot status. We have already raised \$80,000 for that purpose.

"We will raise another \$100,000—for openers, not total—for Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Ohio ballot drives to put Governor Johnson and me on the 2016 ballot.

"Gary Johnson and I are impact players. We will deliver, not 'Libertarian lite,' but as Libertarian heavyweights."

On the first round, Weld fell short of clinching the nomination, with just 49.0 percent of the vote. Sharpe garnered 30.4 percent, followed by Coley at 10.7 percent. Derrick Grayson, who had qualified for nomination but not for the debate,

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Vice presidential candidates debating at Libertarian Nominating Convention.
L-R: Larry Sharpe, Gov. William Weld, Alicia Dearn, Will Coley

Governor William Weld

William Weld is a former two-term Republican governor of Massachusetts, a predominantly Democratic state. He was legal counsel to the House Judiciary Committee during the Watergate impeachment hearings (with colleague Hillary Rodham), and a Reagan-appointed U.S. attorney for Massachusetts, where he prosecuted a number of big banks and won convictions for public corruption. He is also known for having resigned from a post at the Justice Department to protest improper conduct by U.S. Attorney General Edwin Meese, then testifying before Congress, shortly followed by Meese's own resignation.

As governor, when he had enough Republican support to block the state legislature's ability to override his veto (during his first two years), Weld was able to shrink the Massachusetts state government; after that, it was a negotiation. The Cato Institute gave him grades of "A" and "B" during his terms as governor. He won re-election with 71 percent of the vote. He is co-chair of a task force to study liberalizing trade with Mexico and Canada for the Council on Foreign Relations, and a novelist.

2016 LP convention

...continued from page 4

finished fourth, with 5.5 percent of the vote, followed by Dearn, with 3.3 percent. NOTA received 0.7 percent of the vote.

Judd Weiss had also qualified to be nominated for vice president, but dropped out during his nominating speech to endorse Will Coley.

"Gov. Gary Johnson and I will help down-ticket Libertarian candidates for U.S. Senate, the U.S. House, as well as state offices, with campaign funds as well as funding for ballot status. We have already raised \$80,000 for that purpose. "We will raise another \$100,000 — for openers, not total — for Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Ohio ballot drives to put Gov. Johnson and me on the 2016 ballot."

—V.P. nominee Gov. William Weld

Coley dropped out after the first round and threw his support behind Larry Sharpe. Dearn dropped out as well, but chose not to endorse another candidate, instead advising delegates to "vote their conscience."

Gov. Weld eked out the majority he needed on the second ballot, with 50.6 percent of the vote. Sharpe followed closely with 46.9 percent, followed by NOTA (1.3 percent), and Grayson (1 percent).

Other key votes

Delegates voted to amend the party platform to oppose the death penalty; to oppose requirements that government employees join unions or pay union dues; to tighten the terms of government employees' pensions; and to oppose bank bailouts.

Videos of training events, breakout sessions, and proceedings on the main convention floor can be viewed at:
www.LP.org/2016_convention_videos

Missed an event?



Delegates defeated a proposal to replace the current abortion plank, which opposes regulation, with a plank which takes no stand on regulation and which opposes both government funding of abortions and regulation of contraceptives.

All four LNC incumbent office holders were reelected: Chair Nicholas Sarwark, Vice Chair Arvin Vohra, Secretary Alicia Mattson, and Treasurer Tim Hagan (see more about the new LNC on page 12).

Delegates mockingly bestowed a "Liberty Outreach Award" on Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton, for "jointly guaranteeing an unprecedented wave of interest in political alternatives."

Nonstop activity

Communicating Libertarian ideas effectively, the War on Drugs, and legislative lobbying were among the many topics covered during meal breaks, in breakout sessions, and on the convention floor. Speakers included Assem-

blyman John Moore (L-Nev.); Neill Franklin, executive director of Law Enforcement Against Prohibition (LEAP); Lyn Ulbricht, whose son Ross was imprisoned for running the Silk Road website; author Tom Woods, senior fellow of the Mises Institute; Jeffrey Tucker, author and founder of Liberty.me; and Jim Rogers, author and financial commentator.

Funding from Political Action Committees

Three super PACs formed to support the Johnson-Weld campaign could potentially raise tens of millions of dollars.

- Socially Liberal and Fiscally Conservative PAC, headed by R.J. Lyman, an executive at ML Strategies, the firm from which Weld has taken an unpaid leave in order to campaign
- Purple PAC, headed by former Cato Institute president, Ed Crane
- Concerned American Voters PAC, headed by Matt Kibbe, former president of FreedomWorks

Both Kibbe and Crane had raised PAC money in support of Republican Rand Paul's campaign for president.

At press time, it is unknown whether Charles or David Koch will fund a PAC on behalf of the Libertarian ticket.

Vendor booths filled the hall outside the convention where spontaneous chants occasionally erupted for or against particular candidates. Adding color, parading by was a steady stream of participants from MegaCon, a convention of comic book enthusiasts meeting at the adjacent convention center. Dressed as Spider-Man, storm troopers, and other action and sci-fi characters, their exotic costumes rivaled those of John McAfee's entourage.

From the floor, delegates would ask every so often for the web address (LP.org) and phone number (1-800-ELECT-US) of the party, which the chair or the body (in unison) would obligingly supply, along with chants of "hashtag Legalize Freedom," the theme of this year's convention.

2016 candidates made good use of the microphone to address the convention floor and entertain C-SPAN viewers during vote-counting and lunch breaks.

Busy registration, credentialing, and

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Published Presidential Polls

Poll	Dates	Johnson	Clinton	Trump	Other
CBS News	June 13–14	11%	39%	32%	
Bloomberg Politics	June 10–13	9%	49%	37%	
CNN	June 5–8	12%	39%	36%	
Fox News	June 5–8	12%	39%	36%	
Fox News poll (independent voters)	June 5–8	23%	22%	32%	
Survey USA (voters in Utah)	June 2–8	13%	35%	35%	
IBD/TIPP	May 31–June 5	11%	39%	35%	
Rasmussen	May 31–June 1	8%	38%	37%	
Quinnipiac	May 24–30	5%	40%	38%	
Fox News	May 14–17	10%	39%	42%	2%
Public Policy Polling	May 6–9	4%	42%	38%	2%
Monmouth University	March 17–20	11%	42%	34%	

Libertarian candidates make bold pledges to shrink government

Expanding on the pledges taken by Libertarians running for federal office in 2014, scores of 2016 Libertarian candidates have pledged to sponsor and support legislation to dramatically reduce government. They signed on to a

variety of measures ranging from fiscal responsibility to civil liberties to military non-intervention.

The list of pledges was based on input from Libertarian candidates, LNC members, and a survey of 2016 candidates conducted in early June. For

the text of the pledges, see page 7 (opposite).

Among the candidates who signed most or all of the pledges pertaining to the office they seek are Michelle Darnell, Brian Irving, Robert Marquette, Alex Merced, and Mark West.

Michelle Darnell

Washington: State House

Michelle Darnell, running for Washington state's legislative district 48, signed on to nine state-level pledges, and also pledges to end crony capitalism, if elected.

Darnell advocates "ending police militarization; reforming asset forfeiture laws; respecting each individual's autonomy; reducing gang warfare, gun crime, and violence; and turning the attention of police toward violent crime and property crime, rather than victimless crime."

Darnell's pledge to end drug prohibition includes her promise to sponsor legislation ending SWAT raids against nonviolent drug suspects and to expunge the records of all nonviolent drug "offenders." Her pledge to end civil-asset forfeiture includes her support for prohibiting the seizing department or agency from retaining the seized assets for their own use.

A champion of small business, Darnell said, "Small businesses in our state are struggling under the burden of taxes and regulation" from which the biggest corporations are exempt.

"Small businesses employ 52 percent of the work force," she said. "Strong and healthy small businesses are key to family wages in our state."

Darnell pledged to sponsor legislation to remove all state-

mandated restrictions on practicing in any profession.

Darnell's political career started in 2011, when she was chosen to be a Ron Paul delegate to the Washington state Republican convention. In 2014, she ran as a Republican for State Senate in the 48th district, earning 36 percent of the vote in her first run for office.

She made the switch to the LP in 2011, but ran as a Republican until she realized that the political winds had shifted.

"The time was right to rise above the political rhetoric and run as a third-party 'bridge' candidate," she said. "It's my desire to bridge the gap between fiscally responsible Democrats and socially tolerant Republicans. I believe this is where most Americans find themselves."

Two high-quality, professionally produced campaign videos can be seen at her campaign website.

Campaign website: www.MichelleForTheHouse.com



Michelle Darnell

Brian Irving

North Carolina: State House

A longtime Libertarian and LP North Carolina candidate for State House District 36, Brian Irving has signed on to ten bold pledges to downsize state government.

Among them is a pledge to localize education, which would remove federal and state government mandates and regulations on local schools, cut taxes by the amount saved, and remove restrictions on private and home schooling.

"Education is too important to leave in the hands of a government monopoly," Irving said. "Parents are responsible for educating their children. They should be free to do so in the way they judge best. They need as many options as possible, which should include home schooling, charter schools, tax credits, tax scholarship programs, and vouchers."

Irving helped form the Libertarian Party of Cumberland County, ran for several local offices, and was appointed to the Fayetteville City Planning Commission, where he served as chair for two of his four years.

"Government far too often stifles innovation through regulation, subverts compassion through bureaucracy, and suppresses achievement through economic manipulation," he said.

"I'm standing for election to the General Assembly because I believe in the people of North Carolina," he said. "I believe in their spirit, their ingenuity, and their compassion. Our state is a place where individuals succeed through voluntary social cooperation, solving humanity's most critical challenges through free-market innovation with dignity, respect, and understanding."

Irving is a 25-year Air Force veteran and freelance journalist. He's serving as chair of LP North Carolina, where he has been active since 1994. From 2012 to 2015, he served as vice president of Free the Vote North Carolina, a political action committee advocating ballot access reform in the state.

Campaign website: LibertyPoint.org



Brian Irving

Alex Merced

New York: U.S. Senate

Alex Merced signed on to 11 candidate pledges, including ones to cut federal taxes and spending, end drug prohibition, downsize the U.S. military, and end crony capitalism.

His focus is on the results these reductions in government would produce: tolerance for each individual's economic and social choices; protection of individuals' justly acquired property; community-based and voluntary problem-solving; and a foreign policy based on peace, trade, and diplomacy.

Having run previously for New York City Public Advocate, his race to represent the people of New York in the U.S. Senate is a logical next step to further those goals.



Alex Merced

Merced is a blogger and video podcaster who has created hundreds of videos to educate voters on principles of libertarianism. He recently started a new social media/marketing consulting company, Merliva LLC.

Born in Hartford, Conn., to parents from Puerto Rico and Guatemala, Merced is particularly concerned with the damage that government interventions do to individuals' financial prosperity.

"When you create inflation and raise taxes, it erodes the returns of investors. These investors don't sit by and just accept lower returns, but seek even higher returns to make up for taxes and inflation, by taking on riskier investments. So more taxes and inflation not only push people toward riskier investments, but make people less willing to invest in safer, lower-return investments," he said.

Merced has pledged to work to end the practice of crony capitalism, including bailouts, loans, and special handouts. He would seek government transparency by requiring government agencies to divulge the same level of detail that the IRS requires of taxpayers. He aims to balance the budget and eliminate the income tax, while cutting federal spending by the amount saved.

Campaign website: AlexMercedForNY.com

2016 Libertarian Party Candidate Pledges

To see the candidates who have signed on to each pledge, visit:

- Federal: www.LP.org/2016-federal-candidate-pledges
- State: www.LP.org/2016-state-candidate-pledges
- Local: www.LP.org/2016-local-candidate-pledges

A page for each pledge lists the candidates along with a list of the benefits voters will reap with each policy enacted.

ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT
DEMAND GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL TRANSPARENCY: <i>Government should be at least as transparent as anyone it regulates, including citizens subject to an IRS audit, businesses harassed by government regulators, and political campaigns subject to FEC regulations. Therefore, if elected, I will sponsor and work diligently to pass legislation to put the government’s checkbook online. Each government transaction must cite as much detail as the IRS demands of citizens. Government agencies that refuse to fully and promptly disclose their finances will lose their funding, and taxes will be cut by the amount saved.</i>
FEDERAL LEVEL
END CRONY CAPITALISM: <i>If elected, I will sponsor and work diligently to pass legislation to end government bailouts, loans, loan guarantees, and other handouts to private businesses; eliminate unnecessary government spending, which fuels crony capitalism; open up bidding of government contracts; and require all government contractors and their employees to agree to abstain from lobbying or from promoting or opposing political campaigns.</i>
SHUT DOWN NSA, TSA, AND END MASS SURVEILLANCE: <i>If elected, I will sponsor and work diligently to pass legislation to reduce and consolidate our 18 spy agencies; abolish the NSA and the TSA; grant clemency and full whistleblower protection to Edward Snowden; repeal all laws that violate the Fourth Amendment right to privacy; and cut taxes by the amount saved.</i>
LOCALIZE EDUCATION: <i>If elected, I will sponsor and work diligently to pass legislation to quickly end all federal mandates on state and local schools, discontinue Common Core and all other Department of Education programs, close the DOE, and cut taxes by the amount saved.</i>
ELIMINATE THE FEDERAL INCOME TAX: <i>If elected, I will sponsor and work diligently to pass legislation to eliminate the federal income tax; cut federal spending to the level it was during Bill Clinton’s presidency, balance the budget, and get the IRS off the backs of taxpayers.</i>
FULLY RESTORE THE RIGHT OF SELF-DEFENSE: <i>If elected, I will sponsor and work diligently to pass legislation to repeal all federal laws that abridge an individual’s right of self-defense, including the “Gun-Free” Schools Act, and thereby remove this obstacle to citizens who can prevent or stop mass shootings.</i>
END DRUG PROHIBITION: <i>If elected, I will sponsor and work diligently to pass legislation to immediately end the insane War on Drugs; pardon, release from prison, and expunge the records of all nonviolent drug “offenders”; end arrests and SWAT raids on suspected drug “offenders”; abolish the federal Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA); and cut taxes by the amount saved.</i>
OPT OUT OF SOCIAL SECURITY: <i>If elected, I will sponsor and work diligently to pass legislation that allows wage earners to opt out of Social Security. Lost revenue needed for existing and future retirees will be derived from selling tens of trillions of dollars worth of unneeded federal assets.</i>
REPLACE PRIVILEGED GOVERNMENT PENSIONS WITH SOCIAL SECURITY: <i>If elected, I will sponsor and work diligently to pass legislation to move all government employees and retirees from privileged, lucrative government pensions into Social Security, and to cut taxes by the amount saved. If it’s good enough for the American people, it’s good enough for government employees.</i>
EXPAND HEALTH FREEDOM TO MAKE IT AFFORDABLE, SAFE, AND EFFECTIVE: <i>If elected, I will sponsor and work diligently to pass legislation to get the federal government out of the healthcare business so that it can be dramatically more effective, safer, easily affordable, and far more responsive to individual needs. Specifically:</i>

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>End all federal mandates on individuals and businesses to buy medical insurance, including those contained in Obamacare. End associated tax penalties.</i>• <i>End all coverage mandates and restrictions on health insurance that prevent companies from selling policies that customers want to buy. Enable purchase of medical insurance plans across state lines. Existing policies may be honored until the free market is restored.</i>• <i>End government guarantees, subsidies, and bailouts of insurance companies, including “risk corridors.”</i>• <i>End all federal laws and regulations that restrict use, or that drive up the cost, of drugs, medical supplies and equipment, and other healthcare products and services. This includes ending all regulatory powers of the Food and Drug Administration.</i>• <i>Require states receiving federal Medicaid funds to similarly end all state mandates and regulations on medical care, including those on insurance, drugs, procedures, medical supplies and equipment, office visits, and laboratory tests.</i>• <i>Once the market has been freed and prices plummet, quickly end all federal healthcare programs and subsidies, which will no longer be needed. Dramatically cut taxes and/or the deficit by the amount saved.</i>• <i>Give veterans total control over their health care by putting money into individual health savings accounts to cover their lifelong medical costs for physical, emotional, or mental injuries resulting from combat. Shut down the Veterans Administration (V.A.).</i>• <i>Privatize all federally funded medical research, and return every dollar saved to taxpayers.</i>
DOWNSIZE THE U.S. MILITARY: <i>If elected, I will sponsor and work diligently to pass legislation to cut military spending by 60 percent or more, and cut taxes by the amount saved; close all foreign U.S. military bases; withdraw completely from the Middle East; and bring our troops home.</i>
ESTABLISH TERM LIMITS FOR CONGRESS: <i>If elected, I will sponsor and work diligently to pass legislation to term-limit members of the U.S. House and Senate.</i>
STATE LEVEL
END DRUG PROHIBITION: <i>If elected, I will sponsor and work diligently to pass legislation to end drug prohibition; pardon, release from prison, and expunge the records of all non-violent drug “offenders”; end arrests and SWAT raids on suspected drug “offenders”; and cut taxes by the amount saved. In the interim, immediately reclassify marijuana the same as wine and beer, subject to the same freedoms and responsibilities.</i>
FULLY RESTORE THE RIGHT OF SELF-DEFENSE: <i>If elected, I will sponsor and work diligently to pass legislation to repeal all state laws that abridge an individual’s right of self-defense and remove this obstacle to citizens who can prevent or stop mass shootings.</i>
END ASSET FORFEITURE (“POLICING FOR PROFIT”): <i>If elected, I will sponsor and work diligently to pass legislation to prohibit the state and local governments from freezing or taking citizens’ assets without (1) charging the alleged offender with a crime and (2) proving property is subject to forfeiture by “clear and convincing” evidence. No assets seized by government may be retained by any department for its own use; instead, they must be transferred to the general fund.</i>
LOCALIZE EDUCATION: <i>If elected, I will sponsor and work diligently to pass legislation to reject all federal mandates on and funding for schools in our state, including Common Core and Every Student Succeeds; end all state mandates on local schools; end all regulations and restrictions on private and home schools; close the state Department of Education; and cut taxes by the amount saved.</i>
END GOVERNMENT LICENSING: <i>If elected, I will sponsor and work diligently to pass legislation to end state-protected cartels, by removing all restrictions on practicing any profession. This includes allowing free-market certification to replace state-controlled licensing, and restoring the right of all service providers to advertise and to publicize their prices.</i>
EXPAND HEALTH FREEDOM TO MAKE IT AFFORDABLE, SAFE, AND EFFECTIVE: <i>If elected, I will sponsor and work diligently to pass legislation to:</i>
Continued on page 8...

Candidates' pledges

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- Refuse to implement Obamacare mandates.
- End all state mandates on individuals and businesses to buy medical insurance.
- End all coverage mandates and restrictions on health insurance that prevent companies from selling policies that customers want to buy; dismantle the office of the state Insurance Commissioner; and allow purchase of medical insurance plans across state lines. Existing policies will be honored until the free market is restored.
- Stop bailing out insurance companies by ending all risk corridors, risk pools, and other forms of bailouts.
- End all state regulations that restrict use, or that drive up the cost, of drugs, medical procedures, medical supplies and equipment, office visits, or laboratory tests. This includes allowing purchase of medical equipment without a state-mandated Certificate of Need, restoring the right of medical providers to publicize their prices; replacing state-controlled medical licensing with free-market certification; and ending restrictions on self-care.
- End any restrictions or prohibitions on free clinics and other forms of charitable health care.
- Once the market has been freed, charitable services are available for the poor, and prices plummet, gradually end Medicaid and all other state healthcare programs and subsidies, which will no longer be needed. Dramatically cut taxes by the amount saved.

END CRUELTY TO THE DYING: If elected, I will sponsor and work diligently to pass legislation to immediately legalize assisted suicide and to end all restrictions on medical treatments, including experimental drugs, for those who are terminally ill.

REPLACE PRIVILEGED GOVERNMENT PENSIONS WITH SOCIAL SECURITY: If elected, I will sponsor and work diligently to pass legislation to move all government employees and retirees from privileged, lucrative government pensions into Social Security, and to cut taxes by the amount saved. If it's good enough for the people of our state, it's good enough for government employees.

ELIMINATE THE STATE INCOME TAX: If elected, I will sponsor and work diligently to pass

legislation to eliminate the state income tax, return every dollar to the taxpayers from whom it was taken, and cut state spending by an equal amount.

ELIMINATE THE STATE SALES TAX: If elected, I will sponsor and work diligently to pass legislation to eliminate the state sales tax and cut state spending by an equal amount.

ESTABLISH TERM LIMITS FOR LEGISLATORS: If elected, I will sponsor and work diligently to pass legislation to term-limit elected state officials.

STATE OR LOCAL LEVEL

IMMEDIATELY END POLICE MILITARIZATION: If elected, I will sponsor and work diligently to pass legislation to prohibit the acquisition, ownership, or use of military-grade equipment by state/local police.

LOCAL LEVEL

REFUSE TO ENFORCE DRUG PROHIBITION: If elected, I will direct police not to arrest or jail nonviolent drug offenders, and I will deny use of jails and other resources to the DEA and any other federal anti-drug agencies.

REFUSE TO ENFORCE ASSET FORFEITURE ("POLICING FOR PROFIT"): If elected, I will direct police not to seize citizens' assets without (1) charging the accused of a crime and (2) proving property is subject to forfeiture by "clear and convincing" evidence. No assets seized by government may be retained by any department for its own use; instead, they must be transferred to the general fund.

END STATE MANDATES: If elected, I will work to eliminate, or refuse to comply with, any state or federal mandates on school districts or municipalities that hinder our ability to cut spending or to eliminate or reduce taxes.

CUT THE PROPERTY TAX BY 25 PERCENT: If elected, I will propose and work to immediately cut the property tax by 25 percent and cut government spending accordingly.

CUT THE PROPERTY TAX BY 50 PERCENT: If elected, I will propose and work to immediately cut the property tax by 50 percent and cut government spending accordingly. •

Candidates' pledges

...continued from page 6

Mark West: Arkansas, U.S. House

Mark West signed on to all 11 federal candidate pledges. West pledged to work to end crony capitalism by supporting a requirement that all federal contractors and their employees agree to abstain from lobbying and from promoting or opposing political campaigns. Since the cost of lobbying raises the cost of bids (ultimately paid by taxpayers), contractors have an unfair advantage influencing decision-makers and elections. He also aims to minimize those decision-makers' entrenchment, by enacting meaningful term-limits legislation.

Taking a broader view, West says, "The economy will be strongest when the federal government isn't bogging down businesses with voluminous regulations and playing favorites through subsidies and tax incentives. A free market is the best mechanism for rebuilding and healing our economy."

Motivated by his desire to give his children a better life, West says he's afraid they're inheriting too much debt and not enough individual liberty. "I believe that we should have the power to run our own lives, to make our own choices," he said, "and the only way to get there is to begin peeling away all these layers of federal government that are taking those rights away."

Taking the pledge to localize education, he would return control of education to parents, teachers, and local officials, rather than imposing mandates from Washington, D.C. He says that this will "allow teachers and parents the necessary flexibility to provide the best education for our kids."

Campaign website: MarkWestForCongress.com



Mark West

Robert Marquette: North Dakota, U.S. Senate

Proving he's serious about freeing future taxpayers from the burden of unrestrained spending and borrowing, Robert Marquette, Libertarian candidate for U.S. Senate in North Dakota, signed eight pledges to reduce government spending and to reduce taxes by the amount saved, allowing taxpayers to keep their hard-earned money.

These included a pledge to cut federal spending to the level it was during Bill Clinton's presidency, in order to both balance the budget and end the federal income tax.

"No matter how the pundits or establishment politicians try to spin our national debt, America is bankrupt," said Marquette.

"I will never vote for a budget that adds to our national debt. I will fight to slash government spending because I will be fighting for the future of my children and grandchildren. And, in doing so, I will be fighting for the future of your children and grandchildren."

Marquette seeks to fully restore the Second Amendment's protection of the right of self-defense, pledging to cosponsor legislation to repeal the "Gun-Free" Schools Act, which disarms peaceful, responsible gun owners who stand ready to stop or prevent mass shootings at schools.

"As Americans, we have a legal right and a moral obligation to protect ourselves, our property, and the innocent people around us, at all times, from dangerous and violent persons who have no regard for gun regulations." •

Campaign website: RobertForSenate.org



Robert Marquette

TheBlaze and RT TV televise Libertarian presidential debates

By Sandra Kallander

Following two Libertarian presidential debates that aired on Fox Business's "Stossel" in April, two more television networks broadcast Libertarian debates in May, in advance of the Libertarian Nominating Convention.

Magician and comedian Penn Jillette moderated a debate which aired on TheBlaze, Glenn Beck's television network, on May 16, featuring the three front-runners for the Libertarian Party's presidential nomination: Gov. Gary Johnson, cyber-security mogul John McAfee, and Libertarian activist and media producer Austin Petersen.



Penn Jillette hosting LP Nevada's presidential debate for TheBlaze; Las Vegas

Sponsored by LP Nevada, the debate drew the attention of politicians, media, and celebrities. Coverage included feature stories in Breitbart, *Conservative Review*, Fox 5 News, CBS 8, Vegas Seven, Al Jazeera

English in D.C., NBC News in San Diego, and *Reason*.

The high-powered audience, with more than 300 tickets sold, included judges, state senators and assembly members, local public officials, business people, and students.



LP presidential frontrunners at LP Nevada. L-R: John McAfee, Austin Petersen, Gov. Gary Johnson

All revenue from ticket sales benefited Opportunity Village, an organization that provides education, training, and other support to Americans with intellectual-development disabilities.

Rick Harrison of History Channel's "Pawn Stars," and operator of World Famous Gold & Silver Pawn Shop, appeared afterward on a discussion panel with Libertarians Drew Johnson and Geoff Lawrence, led by LP Nevada Chair Brett H.

Pojunis.

Following the discussion panel were television interviews of the candidates who participated in the debate, as well as two additional Libertarian presidential candidates, Darryl Perry and Kevin McCormick. Local Libertarian candidates also participated.

On May 12, RT (Russia Today) TV held a live debate which aired on its regular show "Watching the Hawks," moderated by co-hosts Tyrel Ventura and Tabetha Wallace.

Three Libertarian presidential candidates faced off in that debate: Darryl Perry, Dr. Marc Allan Feldman, and Kevin McCormick.

In a discussion about international trade policy, Perry opined that a free-trade agreement should be simple enough to fit on a "3-by-5 index card," implying that

"The reaction was huge," especially on Facebook and Twitter.

—Lindsay France, RT TV's "FishTank"

goods should cross borders freely without government interference. McCormick explained why companies can't afford to bring their profits home because of the double



LP presidential debate broadcast by RT TV. L-R: Marc Allan Feldman, Darryl Perry, Kevin McCormick

taxation imposed in the United States.

Feldman said, "The answer is always 'freedom.'"

On its website, RT TV described their broadcasting of alternative-party debates as "stepping in to fill the void that the major parties—and the mainstream media—have created [during] this election season."

After the debate, the hostess of RT's show "FishTank," Lindsay France, reported that "the reaction was huge," especially on Facebook and Twitter. •

Missed the debates? Watch them online here:

TheBlaze: TinyURL.com/theblaze-debate-2016

RT TV: www.RT.com/usa/342845-libertarian-presidential-debate-live

Thinking of running for office?

It's not too early to plan your run for 2017 or 2018.

Visit LP.org/run-for-office

and send us your inquiry. You'll receive, from your state LP affiliate or national LP headquarters, information you need to get started, file your campaign, comply with your state's election laws, and get on the ballot.

2016 CONVENTION QUOTABLES

We are not isolationists. We just believe in intervening by dropping philanthropy and free speech and free trade on other countries—instead of bombs.

—Marc Allan Feldman, during the presidential debate

When I heard Governor Gary Johnson speak in 2012, I said to myself, "Someone understands me." I came [to the Libertarian Party], and I met my brothers and sisters. No matter what happened today, as of right now, I am 100 percent back in the game for Gary Johnson.

—Larry Sharpe, upon placing second in the V.P. race

I would like to build a wall around Donald Trump, and make Bernie Sanders pay for it.

—Austin Petersen, during the presidential debate

GOP defectors

...continued from page 3

This election year, Kafer says she is most likely voting for Gary Johnson.

"Two awful candidates? My answer is 'no,'" she said on air.

Kafer, who wrote policy papers for the Heritage Foundation during the George W. Bush years, said conservatives and Republicans would have an "easier time" standing up to Hillary Clinton than to Donald Trump, who would be a fox in their own henhouse.

She cited Bret Stephens's *Wall Street*

Journal editorial, "Hillary: The Conservative Hope," which argued that a Trump presidency runs the risk of tarnishing conservative ideas of the rule of law, constitutionalism, the free market, and individual liberty "for generations."

Other GOPers warm up to voting Libertarian

Sen. Ben Sasse (R-Neb.) is sticking with the GOP for now, but he hasn't ruled out voting for Gary Johnson, making him the highest-profile government official to publicly con-

sider the Libertarian Party nominee.

"[T]he Libertarian Party is something I would consider in the long term," Sasse told the *Lincoln Journal Star*.

Like Matalin, Sasse said that Clinton and Trump "are not doing a very good job of explaining what they are for," according to the *Journal Star*. He added: "Don't be so sure the two-party political system continues long term."

2012 Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney has also said he is considering voting for the Johnson-Weld ticket. •

Libertarian Party honors freedom fighters with liberty awards

At the 2016 Libertarian Nominating Convention, awards were presented to outstanding contributors to the Libertarian Party and to the liberty movement at large. Party members nominated prospects, and the Awards Committee of the Libertarian National Committee chose the winners.

The Hall of Liberty Award honors significant achievements that have made a lasting impact on the Libertarian Party and/or the liberty movement. Two longtime libertarians were inducted into the Hall of Liberty: Bill Redpath and Ron Paul.

Bill Redpath, Hall of Liberty

Bill Redpath has done more to put Libertarian candidates on the ballot than any member of the party in its history. He has overseen approximately 250 successful ballot drives, and personally collected approximately 27,500 petition signatures.

He joined the LP in 1984 and became active in the Virginia LP in 1986. Frustrated that 1984 Libertarian presidential candidate David Bergland wasn't on the ballot in his home state, Redpath decided to get involved in ballot access. He started petitioning, and in 1988 headed up the Virginia ballot access drive.

He ran LP ballot-access drives nationwide in 1992 and oversaw the 1996 effort. Both years, the LP presidential ticket made the ballot in all 50 states, plus Washington, D.C. It was the first time that an alternative party did so in successive presidential elections.

Redpath says two of the greatest days of his life were in 1988, when he chauffeured LP presidential candidate Ron Paul around Washington, D.C., for interviews, including meeting I.F. Stone at the *New York Times* bureau there.

He continues to oversee national ballot-drive efforts today.

Bill Redpath has run for office six times, including for governor of Virginia in 2001, U.S. Senate in 2008, and U.S. House in 2010 and 2014.

He was the national LP chairman from 2006 to 2010, and served twice as chairman of the Libertarian Party of Virginia. He has served numerous terms on the LNC since 1989, as member and as treasurer.

Ron Paul, Hall of Liberty

In 1988, Ron Paul became the first Libertarian Party presidential nominee who was a congressman. He joined the party as a Life Member.

Although he returned to the GOP where he served eight more terms in the U.S. House, he remained the highest-ranking public official in the country to espouse fundamentally libertarian views and bold policy proposals to reduce the federal government.

His runs for president on the Republican ticket in 2008 and 2012 provided a huge boost for the libertarian movement. Many of his supporters later joined the LP, and a number of them have since run for office on the Libertarian ticket.

Paul has bucked the GOP's party line throughout his career, maintaining that Democratic and Republican politicians vote essentially the same way and produce the same result: more big government, higher taxes, fewer civil liberties, and more foreign entanglements.

Almost unheard of in the halls of Congress, Paul has unapologetically advocated ending the federal income tax, balancing the budget, removing or reducing scores of unneeded federal government agencies, auditing or eliminating the Federal Reserve, and drawing down the U.S. military.



Rep. Ron Paul, M.D.

Wendy Adams, Samuel Adams Activism Award

As executive director of the Libertarian Party of Louisiana (LPL) in 2012, Wendy Adams set out to grow and organize the state party, with impressive results.

She oversaw the effort to increase voter registration of Libertarian voters in Louisiana from about 5,500 to just over 12,000 today.

She organized and caucused 23 parish affiliates, who work to grow the membership, recruit and support candidates, establish campus organizations, and spread the Libertarian message through community outreach booths at local fairs and festivals.

She established a system which produced the LPL's highest number of candidates and most election victories its history. In 2014, LPL fielded a U.S. Senate candidate, five U.S. Congressional candidates, and 12 local candidates, resulting in four locally elected Libertarians.

Adams helped organize and continues to assist in overseeing the College Libertarians at the University of New Orleans and Loyola University. Information booths are set up at both universities throughout the academic year, educating young people about Libertarian principles.



Wendy Adams

Adams helped create and actively organizes the LPL Legislative Action Committee, now in its third successful year at the state capitol. She oversees e-mail and telephone campaigns, and arranges for Libertarians to testify at the legislature on hot-button issues.

She also caused LPL funding to rise from \$0 in 2012 to \$32,000 annually in 2014.

She now serves as executive director for several local parish affiliates in southeast Louisiana, and also serves on the Orleans Parish Executive Committee and the Louisiana State Central Committee.

"She lives, breathes, and exists to build the party," said Michael Vogt, representative for the LP affiliate in Plaquemines Parish.

Will Hammer, Patrick Henry Candidate Award

Hard work helped two-time Libertarian candidate Will Hammer win record votes in his campaigns for public office.

In his 2014 campaign for Virginia's U.S. House District 6, against Bob Goodlatte, he garnered 12.3 percent of the vote in a three-way race, the highest for a Libertarian running for federal office in the state's history.

A former Ron Paul supporter, Hammer tried to make the Republican Party more libertarian, and got elected treasurer of the Staunton Republican Committee. He determined that it was infeasible to change the GOP from within, and joined the LP after seeing the strong showing by Libertarian Robert Sarvis in the 2013 Virginia governor's race. He responded to Sarvis's call to run for office.

In 2014, Will Hammer campaigned in every spare moment he had outside his full-time job. Along with volunteers, he gathered over 1,700 signatures to get on the ballot in just six weeks. He traveled to events throughout his district, from a Tea Party rally and gun shows to Roanoke Pride and the Latino Festival.

He took election week off from work, and during one sleepless 40-hour stretch, spent the time between speaking events to mount yard signs near poll locations along the 120 miles between Lexington and Front Royal.

In 2015, Hammer campaigned hard again, this time in a two-way race for State House of Delegates District 20. He received 24.1 percent of the vote against Republican incumbent Richard Bell, almost as much as the Democrats did (29 percent) in the previous two elections against Bell.

While in college, Will Hammer cofounded the first libertarian group on campus, the Hampden-Sydney Classical Liberals. In 2012, he founded Freedom Gulch, an on-



Will Hammer

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Presidential ballot access update

by Bob Johnston

The Libertarian Party remains on track to be on the ballot in all 50 states, plus Washington, D.C. After the 2014 midterm elections, the Libertarian Party 2016 presidential ticket qualified to be on the ballot in 31 states.

After successfully completing petition drives in Oklahoma in March and in South Dakota in June of this year, the LP became qualified in 33 states. On May 27, a U.S. District Court granted injunctive relief to the Maine Libertarian Party. The state must give the party credit for the 4,513 registered members it obtained last year. The law requires 5,000 registered members to be a qualified party. The party now has until July 12 to get another 487 registrants. If it does so, it will be a qualified party for purposes of the presidential election. For the remaining states, petitioning must be completed to get on the ballot. The start dates for signature gathering was not until June for several states, notably New York and Massachusetts. •

States where LP is not yet on the ballot as of June 17

	Valid signatures needed to qualify†	Raw* signatures needed	Raw* signatures collected as of June 10	Deadline to submit signatures†
Illinois	25,000	41,667	24,000	June 27
Washington	1,000	1,667	1,000	July 23
New Jersey	800	1,333	0	Aug. 1
Pennsylvania	21,775	36,292	13,000	Aug. 1
New York	15,000	25,000	0	Aug. 2
Connecticut	7,500	12,500	1,600	Aug. 10
Washington, D.C.	4,500	7,500	0	Aug. 10
New Hampshire	3,000	5,000	0	Aug. 10
Massachusetts	10,000	16,667	1,000	Aug. 2
Alabama	5,000	8,333	0	Aug. 18
Tennessee	275	458	0	Aug. 18
Virginia	5,000	8,333	1,500	Aug. 26
Ohio	5,000	8,333	1,500	Aug. 10
Iowa	1,500	2,500	550	Aug. 19
Minnesota	2,000	3,333	375	Aug. 23
Kentucky	5,000	8,333	0	Sept. 9
Rhode Island	1,000	1,667	0	Sept. 9

* It is necessary to collect approximately 67% more raw signatures than the required number of valid signatures, in order to safely qualify for the ballot.
† Source: Richard Winger, publisher of Ballot Access News

2016 LP award winners

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line news magazine aimed at promoting free markets and free minds. Cointelegraph, one of the top Bitcoin news websites, called Hammer “perhaps the politician most engaged with digital currencies to have stood for election to date.”

BetteRose Ryan, Thomas Jefferson Leadership Award

BetteRose Ryan has been a marathon runner for the Libertarian Party for more than 30 years. She was the convention committee chairwoman for the 2016 Libertarian National Convention. While caring for her ailing father following the loss of her stepmother last year, she worked full-time to put together what may be considered the most successful convention in LP history. She also ran the 2008 national convention in Denver with her sister, Michele Poague, and Eva Kosinski. Ryan also helped with registration for the 2012 convention. From 1994 until 2001, Ryan was a leader in the Libertarian Party of Colorado (LPC), where she played a key role in restarting the pledge program and regular fundraising efforts. With Poague, she organized and ran four successful state conventions, managing to raise more than \$30,000 for the LPC. She helped with three more LPC conventions after having moved out of state. Ryan and Poague also ran two highly successful Libertarian presidential dinners, one for Harry Browne and one for Michael Badnarik.

Ryan helped to put on four conventions in other states, and has trained many Libertarians in how to run conventions, set up exhibitor tables, and arrange for speaking events. With Poague, she wrote the highly acclaimed manual for state Libertarian parties, *Creating a Successful Convention* (Bent Briar Publishing, 1999). She has volunteered for numerous Libertarian campaigns, including the Glendale, Colo., city council race and the Glendale mayoral race. While living in South Dakota, she served on LP South Dakota’s (LPSD) executive committee, ran for lieutenant governor, collected signatures for ballot access, and even drove to Illinois to help check petition signatures there. Ryan has served three terms on the Libertarian National Committee, six terms on the LPC state committee, and three terms on the South Dakota LP state committee. Her husband, Tony Ryan, former treasurer for Law Enforcement Against Prohibition (LEAP), also served on the LNC and the LPSD executive committee.



BetteRose Ryan

Jason Scheurer, Thomas Paine Communications Award

Since casting his first Libertarian vote for Ron Paul in 1988, Jason Scheurer has been a tireless advocate for

liberty. He has run for office three times and constantly pumps Libertarian ideas on the airwaves. Known to radio listeners as “Jason in D.C.,” he has waged a one-man call-in campaign across the nation. He calls dozens of radio shows daily where the hosts know him by name. His motto is to “attack the Left for not being Left and the Right for not being Right.” Jason believes that every time he identifies himself as a Libertarian while making informed and valid points is worth a hundred dollars in media ad buys. Before moving to the D.C. area from New Jersey, he ran twice for state assembly, in 2004 and 2006, and ran for U.S. Senate in 2008. Jason has been a regular contributor to Breitbart News. In the fall of 2014, his piece, “The War on Libertarians and Third Parties,” which makes the case that election laws stifle competition and further entrench the two-party system, got him coverage across the nation. For over five years, Scheurer and his cohost Lou Jasikoff have been broadcasting their Sanity Check Radio show on Twigs Café Radio, Tuesday through Thursday, in northeast Pennsylvania. They are also colleagues at the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton *Independent Gazette*, a regional newspaper of which Jasikoff is founder and publisher, and Scheurer is a columnist. •



Jason Scheurer

Convention delegates choose leadership

Officers



Nicholas Sarwark

Arvin Vohra

Alicia Mattson

Tim Hagan

At-Large Representatives



Marc Allan Feldman*

Sam Goldstein

Daniel Hayes

Bill Redpath

Starchild

Regional Representatives

Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8
Caryn Ann Harlos	Ed Marsh	Brett Bittner	Jeff Hewitt	Jim Lark	David Demarest	Whitney Bilyeu	Patrick McKnight
Alternate: Steve Nielson	Alternate: Steve Nekhaila	Alternate: Ken Moellman	Alternate: Aaron Starr	Alternate: Trent Somes	Alternate: Sean O'Toole	Alternate: Danny Bedwell	Alternate: Joshua Katz
States: Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Hawaii, Kansas, Montana, Utah, Washington, Wyoming	States: Florida, Georgia, Tennessee	States: Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio	States: California, Nevada	States: District of Columbia, Delaware, Maryland, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia	States: Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Carolina, Wisconsin	States: Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Texas	States: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Vermont

States not represented by a region: Idaho, New Mexico, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota

Highlights of May LNC meetings

By Alicia Mattson,
LNC Secretary

The Libertarian National Committee (LNC) met twice briefly in May in Orlando, Florida.

The final meeting of the 2014–2016 term was on May 26, just prior to the start of the national convention on May 27. The pre-convention meetings seldom involve much substantive business beyond wrap-up reports.

The LNC did increase the branding budget from \$35,000 to \$65,000 as we continue to incorporate the new logo into more of our materials. Field work for the audit of our 2015 financials was to commence shortly after the national conven-

tion. The LNC made last-minute decisions about convention financial matters. Negotiation of the 2018 convention contract is in progress.

Two new policies were adopted, one requiring that certain employee benefits be included in employment contracts if they are to be offered, the other regarding required approvals for any capital leases.

In the February LNC meeting, we had tasked the Website Redevelopment Committee with replacing our existing website with something more modern for the presidential election cycle. Kevin Ludlow, as chair of that committee, reported substantial progress and an expectation that the new site will be launched in late June.

Immediately following that LNC meeting, the executive committee met and approved ballot access encumbrances for Alabama, Kentucky, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire.

Following the convention, the newly elected 2016–2018 LNC met briefly. The new leadership populated some committees for the new term, authorized participating in a joint fundraising committee with the Gary Johnson presidential campaign, and authorized the chair to execute an employment agreement with our executive director.

The new LNC will next meet on July 17 in Las Vegas, Nevada, in conjunction with FreedomFest. •

2016 convention

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media desks kept LP headquarters staff and volunteers hopping throughout the event. Staff members also teamed with the Leadership Institute to offer a full day of campaign and activist training seminars.

This convention may well go down as the most memorable in LP history. It may be a sign that voters are readier than ever to give the boot to the Washington, D.C., establishment and vote Libertarian.

Dozens of dedicated volunteers made this historic event possible, including Convention Chair BetteRose Ryan, Daniel Hayes, Danielle Alexandre, Alex Snitker, Laura Ann Valle, Alicia Mattson, Jeanette Jaquish, James Holland, Rigel Jaquish, Ricky Austin, Wendy Adams, Deana Svoboda, Greg Bowen, George MacArthur, Dawn Drellos-Thompson, Tony Ryan, and the Libertarian Party of Florida. •

*Dr. Marc Allan Feldman

As this issue went to press, *LP News* learned the shocking news that Dr. Marc Allan Feldman, 2016 candidate for the Libertarian Party's nomination for president, passed away on June 22. Formerly a regional rep to the Libertarian National Committee, he had been elected in May as an at-large member.

Nicholas Sarwark, LNC Chair, said, "Members of the Libertarian Party are deeply saddened to learn of Dr. Feldman's passing. He was a delightful, spirited, and dedicated Libertarian who inspired and won the hearts of many. Our deepest condolences to his family on their loss." •

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West Virginia LP undergoes dramatic growth

Activism in the Libertarian Party of West Virginia (LPWV) has surged over the last two years, in membership, convention attendance, candidates, and media coverage. It also boasts a newly elected mayor, and an elected county commissioner who switched his party affiliation to Libertarian.

On May 7, LPWV held its best-attended state convention ever. With 112 participants, it was possibly the highest per capita attendance of any Libertarian state convention in the national party's history. All other state LP conventions this year with more than 100 attendees were held in states with populations at least three times that of West Virginia.

Coverage of the convention was featured on the front page of the *Charleston Gazette*, the state's largest newspaper, as well as on the front page of the state's weekly business publication, the *State Journal*. John Buckley, Libertarian candidate for secretary of state, was also featured on

the front page of the *Wheeling Intelligencer*; its coverage was picked up by nine other newspapers. Sheriff candidate Brent West has been covered several times for his support of a marijuana decriminalization bill, which his Republican opponent staunchly opposes.

LPWV has seen dramatic growth in the number of candidates running for public office, giving voters unprecedented opportunity to vote Libertarian. Up from five in 2014 and just two in 2012, the party is fielding 16 candidates this year, for Congress, the legislature, local offices, and six statewide offices.

This is the first time in modern West Virginia politics that a third party is fielding a full slate of statewide candidates: David Moran for governor; Karl Kolenich for attorney general; John Buckley for secretary of state; Michael A. Young for treasurer; Brent Ricketts for auditor; and Buddy Guthrie for commissioner of agriculture.



Record attendance at LP West Virginia convention

Moran was the Libertarian candidate for governor in 2012; Buckley was the party's candidate for U.S. Senate in 2014.

Libertarian Zane Lawhorn of Mercer County is running for U.S. House in the third congressional district.

One Libertarian has already won his election. On June 2, Joel Davis of Paden City won 70 percent of the vote to become mayor. He will be sworn in to a two-year term in July.

He joins another Libertarian in West Virginia, Ron Watson, president of the Harrison Co. Commission, who switched his affiliation from Democratic to Libertarian in November.

Nominated for the state legislature are Matt Persinger of Hardy County for State Senate in the 14th District; Travis Simms of Fayette County for House of Delegates, District 32; Eddie Wagoner of Monongalia County for House of Delegates, District 51; and Tonya Persinger of Hardy County for House of Delegates, District 55. James Copley was nominated to run for sheriff in Cabell County. Two candidates were also nominated to run for local office in



2016 West Virginia Libertarian candidates

continued on page 15...

In wake of Orlando shooting, LP calls for end to 'gun-free' zones

Nicholas Sarwark, Chair of the Libertarian National Committee, issued the following statement on June 13:

Despite the horrific loss of life and the dozens more injured by a spiteful, deranged shooter in Orlando yesterday, the forces of hate are losing the battle against the vast majority of peaceful individuals who want social tolerance. But Americans remain at risk of more mass shootings.

Hundreds of individuals from all backgrounds lined up in the Florida heat for hours to give blood to the victims of this tragedy. Millions of Americans nationwide share the grief of this moment and express their sympathy in vigils and social media. The outpouring of love and support from caring people is what truly makes America great.

Government cannot protect us from people who hate, nor provide the love and support of people who, by nature, care for their fellow man. But government can greatly reduce the likelihood of mass shootings by getting out of the way of people who want to defend themselves and others.

Without missing a beat, old party politicians recycled their calls for more failed and deadly policies.

Presumptive Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump demonizes Muslims, failing to distinguish hateful and mentally ill individuals from the millions of peaceful Muslims who strongly condemn acts of violence.

Democrat Barack Obama calls for more deadly restrictions and prohibitions on the rights of peaceful, responsible gun owners to stop shooters and minimize their impact.

The Libertarian Party is the only political party calling for sensible, serious policy change that would reduce the frequency of mass shootings as well as minimize the damage they do.

Virtually all mass shootings happen in "gun-free" zones. Regardless of the ideology of the shooter or the type of weapons used, the common link is that the event occurs where responsible gun owners are prohibited from carrying arms for self-defense.

The Pulse nightclub was a "gun-free" zone.

The Inland Regional Center in San Bernardino, Calif., was a "gun-free" zone.

The Bataclan nightclub in Paris was a "gun-free" zone.

The schools in Newtown, Conn., and Columbine, Colo., were "gun-free" zones.

Fort Hood was a "gun-free" zone.

In each of these mass killings, the government prohibited people from exercising their life-saving right to self-defense.

Government-mandated "gun-free" zones disarm those who want to defend themselves and their loved ones.

"Gun-free" zones create killing fields for mass murderers who, by definition, do not care what the law says.

Self-defense is a fundamental human right. Every person has a right to defend herself and her loved ones against someone who would do them harm. When government takes away the right of self-defense, it is violating a fundamental human right and endangering its citizens.

The choice of whether and how to defend oneself is a profoundly personal one. The government should not mandate that every American carry a weapon for personal self-defense, nor should it mandate that every



American must rely on police for protection.

The beauty of the right to self-defense is that it keeps the criminals guessing as to who has a gun and who does not. This deters mass shooters from even trying.

The Libertarian Party supports freedom of choice and calls for the government to stop denying our human rights.

Our thoughts, prayers, and love go out to the friends and families of those slain or harmed in Orlando. We owe it to them, and to all citizens, to do what we can to stop tragedies like this in the future.

How many more mass shootings will occur before we demand that our government stop violating our fundamental human right to self-defense?

No more government-mandated "gun-free" zones. No more government-created killing fields where madmen can slay innocent people.

No more! •

AFFILIATE

UPDATES

Affiliate news and events are provided to LP News by Libertarian Party state affiliates.

Arizona

Write-in votes needed

This election season, the Arizona Libertarian Party expects to have many write-in candidates in the primary—with the successful candidates appearing on the general election ballot in November. This approach was necessitated because of dramatically harsher ballot-access laws passed by the Republican-controlled legislature last year. Litigation in federal court on these unconstitutional provisions is pending, but the Arizona Libertarian Party is aggressively pursuing this alternative strategy in case a favorable ruling from the federal court arrives too late to provide timely relief.

Arizona Libertarians are urged to support this effort in two ways:

- Run as a write-in candidate (filing deadline is July 21, 2016).
- Vote in the primary (during August by mail; on Aug. 30 in person) and write in every eligible Libertarian candidate.

The Arizona Libertarian Party has provided instructions and forms for filing to run as a write-in on its website: AzLP.org

The filing paperwork is trivial, and the party is urging more Libertarians to step up to run for one of over 350 offices—a coordinated list of candidates is online, to maximize the number of offices where voters will have a Libertarian option.

A list of candidates eligible to be written in is regularly updated on the party website: AzLP.org.

Arizona Libertarians should refer to the latest list of candidates before voting in the primary.

Early voting (vote-by-mail) ballots will start arriving after Aug. 3, 2016, and the primary election will be held on Aug. 30.

The Arizona Libertarian Party asks that every Arizona Libertarian participate in the primary and write in as many eligible Libertarians as possible!

California

Four candidates survive “top two”

California Libertarians are excited about the 2016 election. Besides the John-

son-Weld ticket gaining more notice for us nationwide, there will be at least four Libertarians on the ballot in two-way races in November. As a “top two” state, it’s hard for our candidates to win those slots in the open primary. However, there are 16 districts where only one candidate filed (all incumbents, of course), so we had the chance to qualify candidates through write-in votes.

Four Libertarians were the only write-ins who filed in their respective districts, so they will all be in the top two, thus be printed on the November ballot. They are: Mimi Robson (State Senate, 33rd District); Donn Coenen (Assembly, 1st District); Ken Anton (Assembly, 2nd District), and Mike Everling (Assembly, 51st District). We await the election results to find out if three others have qualified in districts with more than one write-in candidate.

The California State Fair is coming up in Sacramento from July 8 to 24, and there will be a Libertarian booth. Volunteers are needed, since our booth has to be constantly staffed. This will be a great opportunity to meet and speak to thousands of fairgoers from across the state. To volunteer, contact Mark Hinkle MHinkle@Ca.LP.org



Florida

New leaders elected

On Sunday, April 17, Executive Committee members gathered for their first meeting for the 2016–2017 year after being elected the week prior at the Annual LP Florida (LPF) State Convention.

The Annual LPF State Convention was the most well attended ever, with about 160 registered attendees and 126 registered delegates. Membership is up 16 percent statewide from last year’s convention.

The current secretary, Suzanne Gilmore, ran unopposed for re-election and won, as did Treasurer James Morris. Russ Wood was elected to Director at Large 2. The results are as follows for the Regional Representatives: James Campbell, Region 1; Anna Marie Morris, Region 2; Joshua Folsom, Region 3; Ryan Ramsey, Region 4; James

Chipman, Region 5; Region 6 is presently vacant; Robert Schlotman, Region 7; Stacey Selleck, Region 8; George Lebovitz, Region 9; Darlene Underwood, Region 10; Audrey Cappozzi, Region 11; Robert A. Enright II, Region 12; Karl Dickey, Region 13; and Steven Nekhaila, Region 14.

Delegates came from across the state not only to run for LPF positions, but also to attend the highly anticipated presidential debate, featuring Gov. Gary Johnson, Dr. Marc Allan Feldman, Darryl Perry, and Austin Petersen, and moderated by George Phillies, current chair of the Libertarian Party of Massachusetts. A straw poll was conducted immediately afterward; the results were in favor of Johnson with 41 votes, followed by Petersen with 29, Feldman with 8, and Perry with 7.

The state delegation also elected 53 delegates and 53 alternates to represent the LPF at the Libertarian National Convention held in Orlando, May 26–30. There, Florida delegates voted to nominate the Libertarian Party’s presidential candidate, who will offer Florida voters the best alternative to the two major-party candidates.

The LP of Florida emerged from the convention poised to have exceptional results during the 2016 election season.

The LPF executive committee voted to adopt the new LP torch branding meeting, to be implemented over the next four weeks. Raquel Okyay was appointed to Region 6 representative after a regional conference and executive committee approval.

LP Florida’s 2017 convention will be held on May 5–7 in Cocoa Beach, at the International Palms Resort.

Website: LPF.org

Kansas

Fourteen candidates filed

The Libertarian Party of Kansas state convention was held April 29 to May 1, 2016, in Salina. It was one of the best-attended state conventions in the history of the LPKS. As they have done in the past, the Saline County Libertarians hosted the event, which included an informal mixer on Friday night, a catered lunch on Saturday, and a cigar-sampling party on Saturday evening.

Saturday’s business meeting was held at the student center at Kansas Wesleyan University, and featured presentations from several LP presidential hopefuls. Mike Wilson was named the recipient of the Lifetime of Liberty Award for his decades of service to the state party. The Seth

Warren Award was presented to Stacey Davis for his invaluable service to the state party over the past several years.

The LPKS adopted a new constitution and bylaws at the convention. One of the most important features of the new bylaws is that one third of the state executive committee will be elected every year, instead of all members being elected every other year. In this way, new members will always comprise a minority of the committee.

On June 1, LPKS chair Rob Hodgkinson filed LPKS’s 2016 slate of 14 candidates with the secretary of state. Kansans will have a Libertarian choice on the ballot for Oxford township trustee; U.S. senator; magistrate judge for District 15, Position 1; U.S. representatives in each of the four congressional districts; two state senators; and five state representatives.

Massachusetts

Ballot drive underway

The Massachusetts LP has three libertarians on the ballot for state representative.

State Committee member Dan Fishman is exploring the “United Independent Party” route, which tests part of our ballot-access laws, while Bob Underwood and Justin O’Donnell have followed our political designation routes. Massachusetts has nine congressmen, all Democrats. We have Libertarians who say they will try running against five of them. We will learn in August how many of them will appear on the ballot.

Cris Crawford and Dan Fishman are heading up the presidential ballot line acquisition drive. Signature collection cannot

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Collecting signatures at Boston Pride Rally: Cris Crawford, ballot drive coordinator and her husband, Peter Everett, past candidate for Massachusetts Secretary of State.

AFFILIATE

UPDATES

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begin until the presidential and vice-presidential candidates are chosen; we will then have two months to collect 15,000 raw signatures. A surplus of people over positions volunteered to be presidential electors.

Our Facebook outreach campaigns, currently “End the Surveillance State” and “Peace Now! End the Warfare State,” are reaching out to people across Massachusetts.

Michigan

Aiming for major-party status

May was an amazing month for the Libertarian Party of Michigan. Since the straw-poll event held March 19, in which six of the campaigns for our presidential nomination competed, LPM has seen a huge uptick in members and contacts. Getting ready for LPM’s annual convention was a real challenge. But happily, May 14 brought the party its largest turnout of activists ever.

More than 125 people filled the conference room and helped elect a new board. The convention chose Bill Gelineau as chair—who had served as chair in 2003–2004. Last year’s chair, Kimberly McCurry, stepped into the role of vice chair. Previous LEC member Jason Brandenburg was selected as treasurer. And newcomer Diane Bostow was selected as secretary. LPM’s five at-large members, expected to bring both new ideas and experience, are Gregory Creswell, Jonathan Osment, Emily Salvette, Tiffany Heyden, and Jeff Wood.

Following the convention, the LPM hosted a panel discussion with presidential candidates Gary Johnson and Darryl Perry, moderated by nationally known media personality Bill Ballenger (*Inside Michigan Politics* and “Off the Record”). Taking many questions from the audience, the two hopefuls were both enlightening and interesting. The record-breaking banquet audience members enjoyed the experience thoroughly.

Next up—the big event in Orlando. LP Michigan sent its allotted 25 delegates to the national convention, and 19 additional members made the trip. Six of these served in other delegations—east, north, south, and west. For many, undoubtedly one of the greatest experiences

they’ve had, to be part of a record-setting national convention.

The month ended with great news from media. The Johnson–Weld ticket was subject of a poll by the *Detroit News* / WDIV-TV; the result was a Libertarian ticket with 11.5 percent support (see *Libertarian Vindicator* .com/2016/06/01/new-poll-in-michigan-has-gary-johnson-at-11-5). There is much more to do, but these encouraging events give inspiration to LP Michigan to do the hard work all summer. Our ballot rules indicate that an approximately 3.5 percent showing will make the Libertarian Party a major party in Michigan. So, the goal is clear, and Libertarians in the Wolverine State accept the challenge. Hope to see you in Michigan for what should be a wonderful summer of fun.

Check out LPM’s Facebook photo page: [FB.com/LibertarianPartyofMI/photos](https://www.facebook.com/LibertarianPartyofMI/photos)

Montana

LP presence at county fairs

While our delegation traveled to Orlando for the national convention, the folks in Ravalli County were busy with the Corvallis Memorial Day Parade. It’s a fun little parade sponsored by the local American Legion. Our candidate for governor brought his military transport to the parade. Plus we had Dave and Leona Merrick and their car. Everybody had a good time.

Montana is working on getting to a few fairs this summer, including Gallatin County Fair, the Western Montana Fair, and the Ravalli County Fair. It would be nice to get up north to Kalispell and over to Billings, if time and money permit. Our legislative candidates are working to hit the ground running after the June 7 primary.



One of LP Montana’s parade contingent vehicles

We look forward to a good summer. Volunteers welcome. Contact the chair, Mike Fellows, with questions. The Missoula County Libertarian Party continues to do their public access show on the Missoula Community Access Television called “Libertarians Live” or “Other People’s Pockets.”

New Jersey

Eighteen candidates take on big government

The New Jersey Libertarian Party (NJLP) grew more than 38 percent in the first five months of 2016. As a result, the party is receiving unprecedented media coverage, including a recent interview on NBC 10 in Philadelphia and NJ 101.5 radio.

New Jersey property taxes, income taxes, estate taxes, and inheritance taxes are all among the highest in America. Because of excessive regulations, we are consistently voted the worst place to start a business. We have more people leaving our state than any other state does. When adjusted for cost of living, 30 percent of New Jersey residents now live in poverty. Politicians have crippled our taxpayers with more than \$170 billion in state debt. At \$55,550 per taxpayer, that’s the highest in the nation.

The NJLP has 18 candidates running for office on a platform of minimum government and maximum freedom.

Oklahoma

A presidential vote of 2.5 percent will give LP ballot access

LP Oklahoma wishes to thank all those responsible for a professionally run and impressive national convention. Our state was represented by a full delegation of six, plus two alternates, all of whom reported an overwhelming sense of optimism about the future of the LP, and a renewed dedication to advancing the cause of freedom. An unscripted convention process is a source of pride, and proof that individuals can peacefully come

together and accomplish common goals. We send our congratulations to Gov. Gary Johnson and Gov. Bill Weld for their nominations, as well as to everyone newly elected to leadership positions. Thank you all for stepping up.

After years of draconian ballot-access laws, things are finally changing in our state. S.B. 896 was signed into law on May 5, lowering the test from 10 percent of the presidential vote to 2.5 percent. We believe that is very doable and a major game changer when it comes to gaining ground and building momentum.

New OKLP officers officially seated with the gaveling of the national convention are as follows: Tina Kelly, Chair; Tim Krahing, Jr., Vice Chair; Christina Wright, Secretary; and Ron Phillips, Treasurer.

Voters in Oklahoma are looking to the LP as a viable alternative to the failed status quo, and we are moving forward in as many areas as we can, to take advantage of this new relevance. Visit www.OKLP.org to find information about how to get involved in our current activities, which include bringing affiliates on line, the promotion of 16 state Libertarian candidates, the support of medical marijuana initiatives, Pride Parade floats, and T-shirt contests. •

#Oklahoma Brewing The Perfect Liberty Storm

LP West Virginia growth

...continued from page 13

Wood County: Brent West of Vienna for sheriff, and Stephen Smith of Parkersburg for County Commission, District A.

Much of the party’s growth resulted from the hard work of Libertarians Michael Wilson and John Buckley. Both have been generous donors; they serve as the state’s co-director and spokesperson/chair, respectively, for the Gary Johnson for President campaign; and they have each had a hand in dozens of affiliate activities. Buckley, along with LPWV treasurer Karl Swisher, personally calls every new member, welcomes them to the LP, and helps them find ways to run for office or otherwise get active.

Buckley is a former Virginia resident who once served in the state’s House of Delegates as a Republican.

In another victory for the LPWV, Charleston Mayor Danny Jones has announced his intention to vote for Libertarian Gary Johnson for president to protest the GOP’s choice of Donald Trump, as well as its “obsession” with the Religious Freedom Restoration Act. He has left the Republican Party and is now registered to vote as an independent. •

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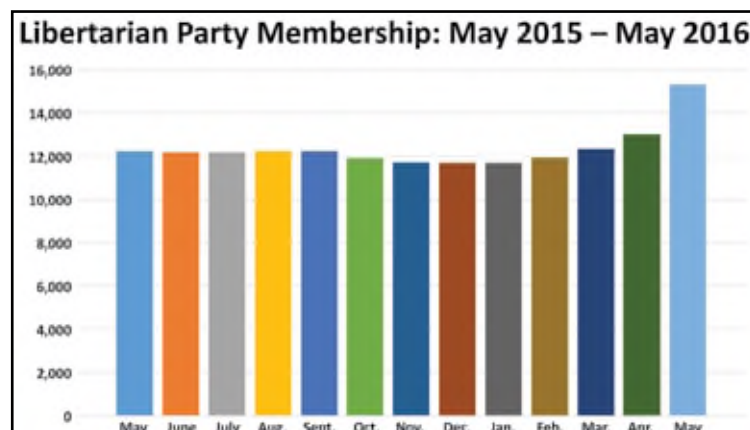
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LP membership spikes in spring of 2016

One of the LP's many new members, Farley Malorrus, explained his drive to join the LP in this way: "We have one chance, one hope, one choice to free this nation; and that is to free up millions of Americans [from] an antiquated two-party system that gives us no choice.... Instead, vote Libertarian, and sway the popular vote to a point that they can't take our freedoms away from us any longer. We are running out of time. Vote for Gary Johnson. Vote Libertarian.... Free the world."



Scenes from the LP national convention



Marc Feldman engaging delegates



Counting ballots



LP Florida delegates



Melissa Edgar announcing
NJ delegation vote totals

What have you missed recently on LP.org?

- *USA Today*: A 3-way presidential race?
- *U.S. News & World Report*: The Year of the Libertarian
- *The Atlantic*: Is This the Libertarian Party's Moment?
- *Newsweek*: There is a third way and it's called Libertarianism
- *Washington Post*: Gary Johnson takes on Trump's anti-immigration lies
- *L.A. Times*: Meet the libertarians—the #NeverTrump movement's last hope
- *Washington Times*: Gary Johnson sets sights on 15 percent in polls
- *L.A. Daily News*: It's high time to let the Libertarian presidential candidate debate
- *The Gazette* (Colorado Springs): Put third party candidates in debates
- El Paso County GOP group endorses a Libertarian for U.S. Senate
- South Dakota Libertarian elected to city council
- "The Rachel Maddow Show" on MSNBC discusses Johnson-Weld ticket
- Austin Petersen interviewed by Breitbart, Kennedy, and Dana Loesch
- NJ chair appears in Philadelphia NBC TV news spot about LP
- George Stephanopoulos interviews Gary Johnson on ABC's "This Week"

Summer is here, and the season's hottest trend is ... Libertarians!

—*Washington Post* headline; 6/4/16

Many voters are quick to dismiss third-party candidates, but Johnson and Weld are different. Between them, they have 16 years of successful executive experience as governors, working effectively with legislators, opposition and the business community alike. Contrast this with the presumptive Republican and Democratic nominees: Donald Trump is a thin-skinned reality TV star with an authoritarian streak, and Hillary Clinton is a former secretary of state whose signature contribution to foreign policy—the 2011 military intervention in Libya—was an unmitigated disaster.

The most important thing any voter can do is vote for the person who best embodies his or her ideals, whether or not that candidate has a good chance at winning the White House.... [H]igh turnout for the Libertarians could qualify them for debates ... and help grow the party in numerous other ways.

—*CNN*, "Don't fall for 'lesser of two evils' argument"; 6/1/16

The Libertarian Party put forward Sunday the strongest presidential ticket in its history, throwing down the gauntlet in an election that has the two major parties poised to nominate divisive candidates with soaring unfavorability ratings.

—*Washington Times*; 5/29/16

What we have developing here is a new epoch in American politics: an authentically liberal (in the classical sense) political movement in the US is being born as an alternative to a deeply corrupt and ideologically dangerous mainstream dominated by two parties that have trended inexorably socialist and fascist.

This new movement has a message that is clean and clear: enough is enough, let us be free. Freedom works; government power does not.

The LP ... is finally positioned to be the political voice of a cultural, social and entrepreneurial resistance movement.... History does not end with this election. One could say that it is just now beginning, now that we finally have a choice, for the first time in our lives.

People often say that America has a two-party system. People always believe that the status quo will last forever. The truth is that the status quo always lasts until, suddenly, it doesn't.

Times are changing.

—*Jeffrey Tucker in Newsweek*, on the 2016 LP National Convention; 6/4/16